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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 VIENTI 03210 261555 Z

47
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W
---------- 039360
R 261120 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3815
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 3210

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: WHO, PFOR, KS, KN
SUBJECT: KOREAN QUESTION IN WHO

REF: A. VIENTIANE 3097
B. VIENTIANE 3150

1. A/ DCM LUNCHED WITH ROK AMBASSADOR LIM YUN YOUNG APRIL 26 TO BRIEF HIM ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN RLG CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST TO SUPPORT POSTPONEMENT OF NORTH KOREAN APPLICATION FOR MEMBER-SHIP IN WHO AND TO OFFER ANY ASSISTANCE AMBASSADOR LIM MIGHT DESIRE.

2. AMBASSADOR LIM SAID THAT HE PRESENTED ROK CASE TO MFA SECGEN LEUAM THIS MORNING, WOULD SEE SECSTATE FOR HEALTH KHAMPHAI ABHAY THIS AFTERNOON AND THE PRIMIN TOMORROW MORNING. HE INDI-CATED HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SOLICIT RLG CO- SPONSORSHIP OF POSTPONEMENT RESOLUTION. HOWEVER, IN LIGHT OF DELICATE INTERNAL NEGOTIATION NOW FACING SOUVANNA, AND LATTER' S DESIRE TO MAINTAIN HIS NEUTRALIST POSTURE, AMBASSADOR LIM SAID HE WOULD NOT STRESS THIS GOAL. ALTHOUGH LAO VOTE WAS IMPORTANT, LIM SAID, ROK WOULD BE EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH RLG AFFIRMATIVE VOTE AND REASONABLY SATISFIED WITH RLG ABSTENTION. HE MENTIONED THAT ROK WAS AWARE OF SOUVANNA' S TRADITIONAL POLICY OF ABSTENTION IN
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VOTES INVOLVING DIVIDED NATIONS.

3. AMBASSADOR LIM EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR BRIEFING BY AMEMBASSY BANGKOK AND MENTIONED THAT LAO AMBASSADOR TO THAILAND KEO VIPHAKONE HAD BEEN EXTREMELY HELPFUL IN FACILITATING HIS MISSION TO VIENTIANE. AMONG OTHER THINGS, AMBASSADOR LIM SAID HE PLANNED TO CALL ON PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER NGON SANANIKONE TO INQUIRE ABOUT EVENTUAL PROSPECTS OF RESTORING LAO ACCESS TO SOUTH CHINA SEA THROUGH REOPENING ROUTE NINE WHICH MIGHT RESULT IN MORE FAVORABLE TRADE SITUATION FOR ROK IN LAOS.

4. COMMENT: BEFORE SEEING AMBASSADOR LIM, WE WERE RELIABLY INFORMED THAT RLG CABINET MEETING MARCH 25 DECIDED TO APPLY LAO POLICY OF ABSTENTION IN VOTES INVOLVING DIVIDED NATIONS TO QUESTION OF NORTH KOREAN APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN WHO. WE DID NOT, OF COURSE, SO INFORM AMBASSADOR LIM BUT IT APPEARED FROM HIS REMARKS THAT ROK WILL BE SATISFIED WITH THIS OUTCOME.
DEAN

SECRET
NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS
*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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SECSTATE WASHDC
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